



ST. LOUIS ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT

# ESPRIT

Vol. 31 No. 12

Winner 1992 Army Communities of Excellence Award

December 1994

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## ACOE provides field trips



John Cannon (right), from the Riverlands staff, explains to District employees how high the water got in the Environmental Demonstration Area during the flood of '93.

As part of its ACOE program, the District conducted four employee trips to the new Melvin Price Locks and Dam and the adjacent Environmental Demonstration Area this fall. Trips were made on September 21, October 6 and 19 and November 1. Ninety-six employees made the trip.

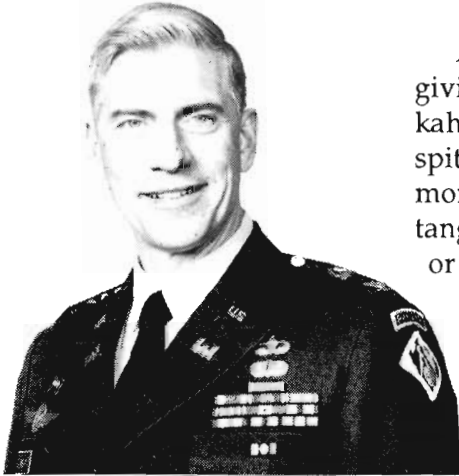
All who took the trip to Mel Price had an opportunity to see how our navigation system operates. They learned all about the operation of a lock, including the fact that there are no pumps to fill and empty the lock chamber - it's all accomplished by gravity flow. Everyone was impressed with the size of the lock and the equipment that operates it.

The beauty of the drive up the Great River Road to Pere Marquette State Park for lunch was accentuated by the outstanding fall colors. The excellent weather allowed the travelers a chance to interact with each other during lunch. They passed the Piasa Bird on the cliffs overlooking the river, which represents the Indian cliff paintings that Joliet and Marquette passed on their way down the Mississippi River. As the Joliet and Marquette expedition passed the "monsters" on the cliffs, they heard a great roaring of rapids as the great River Pekistanoui (Missouri) entered the Mississippi in full flood.

(Continued on page 3)



# Commander's Perspective —



**COL Thomas C. Suermann**

**Although we can't give presents to everyone, we can certainly give the present of imagination to ourselves.**

As you read this, you are probably recovering from the Thanksgiving holiday and feverishly preparing for Christmas or Hanukkah celebrations. Most of us discover at this time of year that, despite our hectic routine schedules, we have the capacity to do even more than we thought possible. It is all too easy to become so entangled in our activities that we lose sight of what these activities or events mean in our lives.

Accomplishing a long list of activities may give us a sense of satisfaction, but, if we don't appreciate the value or the essence of those activities which consume our time, we are missing a great deal.

Many of you have heard the names of Santa's reindeer and know that there are eight of them (plus Rudolph), but do you remember their names or what the reindeer represent to us? They are the ones who transport Santa, help him soar and carry our imaginations away with him.

We usually don't have the opportunity to suspend reality and let our imaginations carry us beyond the routine. At this time of year we can do this if we empower ourselves to do so. Although we can't give presents to everyone, we can certainly give the present of imagination to ourselves.

Walt Disney once wrote, "One reason the Christmas season appeals to me is that it makes us suspend business-as-usual routine and lets our minds soar for a while. Our imaginations carry us for an interval sublimely beyond the limitations that generally hold us earthbound."

My family and I wish you and your families a happy and joyous holiday season and I hope that you will let your imagination lift you beyond the routine. Thank you for welcoming us into the District this year and making us feel at home as well as lifting us beyond the routine.

By the way, if you need to call those reindeer for your flight, they are Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner and Blitzen.



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
St. Louis District

ESPRIT is an unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of AR 360-81. It is published monthly, by contract, in 1450 copies, by the Public Affairs Office, U.S. Army Engineer District, St. Louis. Views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army.

District Commander.....Thomas C. Suermann

Chief, Public Affairs.....Vacant

Editor, Design, Layout.....Ken Kruchowski

Assistant Editor.....Mary Lou Lawson  
Address mail to: U.S. Army Engineer District, St. Louis, ATTN: CELMS - PA, 1222 Spruce, St. Louis, MO 63103-2833. Phone: (314) 331-8000.



## News Briefs

### **Rend Lake:**

#### **More campers**

Camping fees collected at Rend Lake during FY94 increased 39 percent compared to those collected in FY93. Use of the campsite reservation program also increased, with gate attendants at the four Corps campgrounds taking almost 8,000 reservations in FY94. Even though the lake has been in operation for almost 25 years, many people seem to be discovering it for the first time.

#### **Duck hunting**

Duck hunting season at Rend Lake opened with a bang on November 3, with 545 hunters harvesting almost 800 ducks that day. The season was expanded to 40 days this year for the first time in many years because the continental duck populations have increased from 59 million to 76 million birds. Hunters are expected to harvest more than 5,000 ducks from the lake before the season ends on December 12.

The Canada Goose hunting season begins December 3 and runs through January 22 or until a harvest of 11,400 geese is reached.

#### **Wildlife program**

Park Ranger Ray Zoanetti showcased Corps-wide efforts in the Watchable Wildlife program at the 3rd Annual Watchable Wildlife Conference recently held in Vermont.

The conference was attended by 500 individuals from a variety of public and private agencies from throughout the country. Ray's session was titled "Finding Dollars and Support: Partnerships with the

Corps." The Watchable Wildlife Program is a nationwide effort to help people learn how and where to watch wildlife, and to increase their appreciation of native wildlife species. The Secretary of the Army and the Corps of Engineers were both signers of a Watchable Wildlife Memorandum of Understanding developed in 1990 to foster cooperation between agencies in reaching the goals set for the nationwide program.

### **Carlyle Lake:**

#### **Fire prevention**

The interpretive staff at Carlyle Lake, with the help of Smokey Bear, provided pre-schoolers with fire prevention programs during Fire Prevention Week. The children sang the Smokey Bear song, listened to the story about how Smokey got his name and colored hand-out sheets that Smokey had brought for everyone.

#### **Youth duck hunt**

Carlyle Lake hosted a duck hunt for youths between ages 8 and 16 the first two weekends in November at the Honkers Point Vegetative Management Area. The purpose was to get the youths involved in outdoor recreation activities and help them gain a better understanding and appreciation of nature.

#### **Ellis comes and goes**

Margaret Ellis, who became part of the lake staff last month, is leaving. Her husband has taken a job in Arkansas.

### **ACOE trips (cont.)**

On the return trip from Pere Marquette, our travelers stopped to assist in the economic recovery of the town of Grafton, Illinois. The town has made an impressive recovery from the destruction of the Flood of '93.

In the afternoon, they visited the Environmental Demonstration Area at Mel Price. Everyone enjoyed this portion of the trip, even though the area has been decimated by the Flood of '93. Our people asked many questions of the Riverlands staff about the area and the recovery efforts being undertaken.

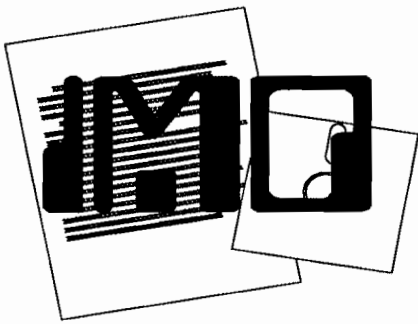
Everyone had a great time on the trips, while learning more about the Corps and the local area. If you missed out on these trips, you'll have to try to make one of next year's trips.

## **Commemorative Silver Dollars**

The United States Mint has issued three U.S. Veterans Commemorative Silver Dollars to honor prisoners of war, military servicewomen and Vietnam veterans. The surcharges raised from the sale of these coins will contribute to three memorials that will be recognized nationwide by Americans of all ages.

As of October 18, more than 700,000 coins had been sold, contributing more than \$7 million to the three memorials collectively. These limited mintage coins are available from the United States Mint until April 30, 1995.

Proceeds from the sales of the commemorative coins will contribute to the recovery of the area.  
(Continued on page 5)



## WordPerfect Office is here

Yes, WordPerfect Office has arrived. In the process many obstacles, some anticipated, were encountered and overcome. Along the way, we in IMO have learned valuable lessons that will enable us to provide greater capabilities to District users.

Many members of the IMO staff have made outstanding efforts to ensure this project would be completed successfully. John Jobst and Russ Powell led the overall effort, coordinating the implementation team

meetings, performing system design and evaluation, software testing, and developing programs to convert the Futurus Team mail and schedules to WordPerfect Office. Anne Modrusic, Christy Huskey and Deborah Maynard teamed to design and conduct training for all District office users. Jeff Maynard made a special effort to visit field office sites, teaching the techniques that are useful for the remote user and providing a point of contact for a special type of potential problem.

One of the unexpected problems encountered was the result of converting our Futurus Team mail and schedules. The software employed to convert this data worked as designed with all the conversion work being completed on Monday, October 31st. However, this process created a backlog of 65,000 messages waiting to be delivered by the WordPerfect Office Postoffice. This backlog caused the network file server to operate at maximum capacity for the remain-

der of the week. Many telephone calls were made to the technical experts at WordPerfect Corporation in an effort to speed up the mail delivery process. All the mail was finally delivered on Friday, November 4th, and the network returned to the normal level of functionality.

The customer support staff has been overwhelmed with calls for assistance, and questions from coworkers. All of us in IMO expected this transition to raise many questions and increase our support requirements during the next few weeks. There are many capabilities available through WordPerfect Office which were not supported before. Many questions will arise as each member of the District begins to explore this software. Please call the IMO customer support center, extension 8700, when these questions arise. We will try our best to provide a prompt, accurate answer to your question.

## New Pathfinder due in May 1995

The District is in the process of replacing the M/V Pathfinder.

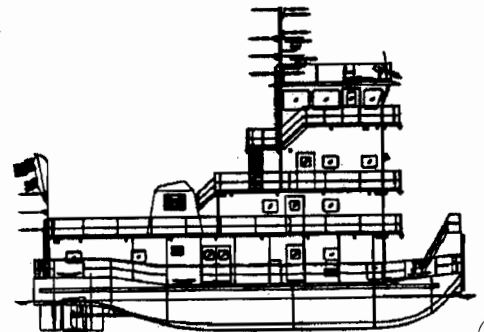
The present vessel was constructed in 1954 by Dubuque Boat and Boiler Company, at a cost of \$154,000. Over the years many changes were made to the deckhouse and a Texas deck and new pilothouse were added in 1984. The propulsion engines were replaced in 1975 with Caterpillar diesels which are now obsolete. The hull was replated in 1981 and cracks are already developing. With the vessel achieving its full economic life of 40 years, the decision was made to request a replacement boat rather than continue to replace equipment and replate the hull on the old boat.

A contract has been awarded to Orange Shipbuilding in Orange, Texas, for the construction of a 75-foot towboat to replace the M/V Pathfinder. At this time the shop drawings have been approved and construction has started on the hull. Delivery is scheduled for May 1995.

The new vessel will have hull dimensions of 75 feet long by 30 feet wide by eight feet deep and a propulsion horsepower of 1,350 with Kort nozzles. The deckhouse accommodations will include a galley, mess area and lounge on the main deck; crew's quarters on the Texas deck; officers' quarters on the A deck; and pilothouse.

The new vessel will be used for

channel patrol work with the buoy barge, towing of fuel to the Dredge Potter, towing of the Derrickboat Sewell and towing of the spare miter gate barges.



This is the basic design of the new Pathfinder. Small modifications will be made to this design.



# ● Evacuating the RAY Building

by Roger Hayes  
Floor Warden, 4th Floor

During the fire drill, on Wednesday, October 12, the RAY Building was evacuated in less than 13 minutes. While approximately 2500 people who work in our building headed for 8 stairwells, three things occurred. Elevators stopped what they were doing and returned to the first floor to open their doors. Powerful fans provided a constant supply of fresh, smokeless air in each stairwell. Doors on the corner stairwells unlocked.

○ Although we've never required handicapped or injured persons to leave during a drill, plans are in place to do so. When firemen arrive, the first thing they would do is determine where the fire is, what type it is, and how fast it is spreading. With that knowledge they can decide which bank of elevators to use to begin evacuation of those employees who cannot use stairwells. This is why elevators return to the first floor when the alarm rings.

○ In an actual fire, not all floors would evacuate; only the floor on which the fire occurs, and the ones immediately above and below. For those of you who have seen the movie, "Towering Inferno", not to worry; that can't happen here. The Fire Department tells us that fire retardant materials between floors make it very difficult for a fire to spread to another level. In addition, our building is "fully suppressed" (Fire Department vernacular which means that we have a good sprinkler system throughout the building).

○ One of the most important jobs during an evacuation is that of a

stairwell monitor. During a fire drill, employees on all ten floors leave the building. Naturally, those on upper levels have farther to go, and we let them go first. Stairwell Monitors, especially on lower floors, monitor traffic in the stairwell to give those above us a chance to get down before traffic jams occur and ensuring that when our people leave, there is reduced traffic. A short wait before beginning will result in everyone leaving without having to negotiate jammed stairwells. All of this leads to reduced evacuation times for everyone. Anyone who has attempted to get across the Poplar Street Bridge or other busy area interstates during rush hour should appreciate this. Please follow the instructions of your Stairwell Monitor and Searchers.

Once outside, employees are asked to move away from the building to make room for emergency vehicles and to give firemen room to maneuver. We didn't do this too well this time, but if we get in the habit, it will come easier during an actual event. Assembly points have been established at the grassy area bounded by 14th, Spruce and Clark Streets. Another is the park area north of City Hall, between 14th, Market and Tucker. For those who leave the building via southern, basement exits, it is best to be under the interstate.

Here's where it gets confusing. During fire drills, some stairwells evacuate to the basement, and others exit at the first floor, then out the front of the building. This results in people assembling on the north and south sides of our building. That's fine for a fire, but our building would be evacuated for other events as well, such as a bomb threat, explosion or gas leak,

earthquakes, and some other natural disasters. During an earthquake, not too many folks would want to spend time under Interstate 40. In that instance, everyone is to exit stairwells on the first floor and leave the building through one of the first floor exits. Assembly points, with the exception of under the interstate, are the same.

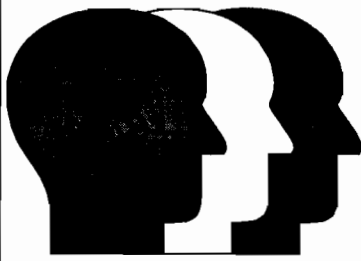
In closing, let me express my appreciation for your quick response to our recent fire drill. Your cooperation and good spirits during these exercises may some day result in the prevention of a tragedy. We have assembled a good, conscientious evacuation team with almost 40 volunteers on the 4th floor, alone. There is room for more in some sectors. If interested, contact your Sector Controller. See you during the next fire drill.

## **Silver dollars (cont.)**

ute to the construction of the National Prisoner of War Museum and the Women In Military Service For America Memorial, and for repair of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Coins are available in three-coin sets and individually. As mandated by Congress and signed into law by the President, each of the three commemorative issues is limited to a maximum mintage of 500,000 coins.

U.S. Veterans Commemorative Silver Dollars may be purchased by calling 1-800-777-VETS or by writing: Customer Service, United States Mint, 10001 Aerospace Road, Lanham, Md. 20706.



## EEO matters

By Harry Hamell, EEO Manager

The year has brought many changes; new faces, new duties and some new direction. EEO has offered several topics for your reading pleasure, in the ESPRIT, on EEO program awareness (June '94), sensitivity concerns of women and minority employees and applicants (July '94), District culture and issues on diversity (Aug. '94), self-assessment and focus initiatives (Sept. '94) and the Corps' mediation process for discrimination complaints (Oct. '94).

The articles were presented in hope of educating, opening communication channels and challenging traditionally held beliefs and perspectives on life within the St. Louis District. It is my sense that the articles were successful, considering both positive and negative feedback received.

So, as we close out 1994, reflect upon your personal and professional accomplishments and consider what positive impressions you have contributed to the

progress and development of a subordinate. Re-examine yourself and discover those God-given talents and gifts that have made you successful. Each of you has something to offer and are stakeholders in the many successes our District is accredited with and will have claim to in the future.

Sharing and caring ('tis the season) are my mottos in this life. What we have by way of knowledge and understanding is a blessing to be shared. Blessings are for spreading; to encourage and assist in transforming ignorance and selfish desires into selfless deeds and goodwill. We all need to set goals, plan, and prioritize for our youth and ourselves; to be roll models.

We all have strengths and weaknesses. Our first challenge rests with being honest with ourselves. Genetically, people are more alike inside than their outward facades allow them to admit. If we internalize our common interests and reject superficial impediments, our capabilities are infinite...

The problems we must face in the upcoming year(s) should be

new ones and not a perpetuation of past practice or ideology. Our strength, as a District, lies in the relationships and attitudes of the people it employs. A district with integrity will flourish because its people will sense concern and caring and will reciprocate. Quality products, customer care and personal interactions with each other will be favorable by-products of our efforts.

A genuine respect for persons, simple solutions to conflict, a pursuit of self-improvement (kaizen) and an uncompromizing work ethic are characteristics of a healthy and progressive work environment.

We must learn what tolerance is - live it, share it and teach it to all who are willing to learn. Peace and goodwill are not as elusive as many might think. It starts with thought, translates into action and manifests itself into being.

Perhaps one of the greatest virtues anyone can possess is a love for their neighbor as great as for themselves. What we do today to enhance growth and development, eliminate barriers to progress and foster positive change in corporate culture and climate are assurances for equal employment opportunity tomorrow.

Happy Holidays to all and to all a good night!

## The Christmas shop **LIFTING** season is here

Thieves are at work to steal what you worked hard to get. Unless you feel generosity towards them, this is the time of year to heighten your personal security habits.

Securely store your money and credit cards when not carrying them, particularly at work. Use the kind of purses that you can protect from snatchers and from being

opened surreptitiously. If you carry a wallet, be conscious of pick pockets. Don't leave a wallet in a suit coat hung up at the office or a restaurant. Carry only a small amount of money and one credit card, with larger amounts of money in a money clip and other credit cards in a separate credit card case.

Keep what you bought out of sight if you have to park your car

before going home from shopping. After you put the items from one trip in the trunk, drive the car out of and back into the shopping center if you're going to continue to shop there.

The District Security staff wishes each of you the best of the holiday season and encourages you to protect what you've worked so hard to earn.





## ☉ Most employees satisfied with health care

By Evelyn D. Harris  
American Forces Information Service

Over 80 percent of federal employees in both fee-for-service plans and health maintenance organizations expressed satisfaction with their plans.

U.S. Office of Personnel Management Director Jim King announced results of the Federal Employees Health Benefits Plan survey. "This survey is an important piece of OPM's commitment to customer service, and it represents the first large-scale availability of plan-by-plan consumer opinion information of FEHBP," said King.

☉ "The survey results will help consumers make informed decisions about their health plan choices and provide participating plans with information important to their ongoing quality improvement efforts."

The federal health plan provides coverage for more than 9 million Americans, including current and retired federal employees and their dependents. Over 90,000 plan enrollees responded to the survey. Enrollees gave their opinions of 261 plans and options. Plans with few federal enrollees and new plans were not asked to participate.

Direct comparisons between health maintenance organizations and fee-for-service plans are not possible. Health maintenance organizations are local, while fee-for-service plans are national. Detailed ratings on all fee-for-service and health maintenance plans participating in the survey will be available from personnel offices during open season Nov. 14 through Dec. 12.

Of the large fee-for-service plans, Blue Cross Standard got an overall 88 percent satisfaction rate. The GEHA health plan got an 84

percent approval rate; the American Postal Workers, 80 percent; and the National Association of Letter Carriers, 79 percent.

Mail Handlers high and low options got 73 percent and 66 percent approval ratings, respectively, among the lowest. A spokesman for the plan said internal surveys showed 90 percent satisfaction except for complaints about telephone service. He said that plan is adding more staff and regional offices to rectify the problem.

The Center for the Study of Services, a nonprofit consumer research organization, conducted the survey for OPM. Researchers said people who are in good health tend to give high ratings to their health plans, while people with more health problems are less satisfied.

OPM plans to conduct a similar survey for release during next year's open season.

## OPM proposes shorter career-conditional period

The U.S. Office of Personnel Management has proposed rules that would give employees career tenure after completing one year's service vs. the current three.

Now most new federal employees are in career-conditional status for the first three continuous years of service; they are on probation during the first of those years. Officials said exceptions and rules added over the years complicate career status rules. The federal government has used this system for 40 years.

☉ Simplifying the rules would give affected employees higher standing during reductions in force. During a reduction in force, employees are grouped by tenure

status. Career employees have the highest status.

In addition, OPM proposes to drop the time limit on reinstatement eligibility. Currently an employee without veteran's preference who has a break in service before obtaining tenure has a three-year limit on such eligibility. When the eligibility expires, the applicant must requalify as if a new hire. For example, a clerk-typist who left government before achieving career status would have to take a typing test.

"The proposed changes to the tenure and reinstatement rules will save countless hours in figuring out when employees reach career tenure and whether applicants' rein-

statement eligibility has expired," OPM Director Jim King said. "The rules also create a family-friendly system, which allows for breaks in service without losing reinstatement eligibility."

The proposed rule was published in the October 20 "Federal Register." The comment period lasts through December 12.

### Quote

You'll never have all the information you need to make a decision. If you did, it would be a foregone conclusion, not a decision.

David Mahoney in Confessions of a Street-Smart Manager



## The man who modeled for St. Nick

It was a snowy December 24, 1822, when Clement Clarke Moore, D.D., was shopping for a Christmas turkey. On his way back, plodding through the snowy streets of New York, he chanced to meet his old friend Jan Duychinck, a chubby, jolly Dutchman with rosy dimpled cheeks and a luxuriant white beard, from which protruded a stump of a pipe.

Duychinck had long fascinated Dr. Moore with legends of St. Nicholas, a bishop of the early Christian church and patron of all good Dutch children. This Christmas Eve, Moore listened again to the tale of Santa Claus, as the Dutch called him, of his love for children, and how he rewarded their good deeds at Christmas.

It was dark as Moore walked through the raw wind from the Hudson and finally reached home. Stimulated by his friend's story, in his mind he saw a miniature sleigh racing across the starlit sky. The



driver, a fat, ruddy-faced old fellow, made Moore know in an instant that it must be Saint Nick.

As visions of Jan

Duychinck's

St. Nicholas danced in his head, he went straight to his study to write:

"'Twas the night before Christmas when all through the house  
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse."

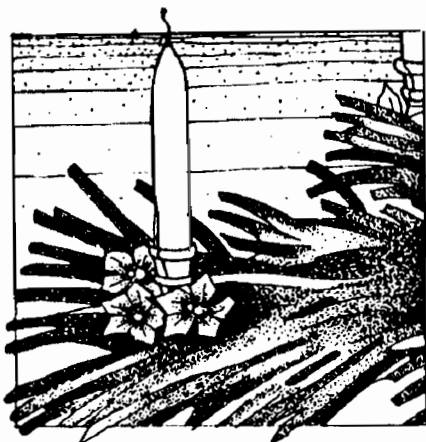
These words propelled Dr. Moore into immortality. He would be remembered not as a benefactor of General Theological Seminary, not as the author of a ponderous Hebrew lexicon, but as the author of verses that brought Santa Claus to America.

It is something of a wonder that Dr. Moore was ever discovered as the author of these famous lines.

After reading them to his grandchildren, he put the poem away in his desk. The next summer a relative came upon the wonderful verse and sent a copy to the Troy, N.Y. Sentinel. On December 23, the verses appeared unsigned, but with a title, "A Visit From Saint Nicholas."

Moore, a scholarly fellow, didn't admit to being the author for some years. He never intended to gain financially from the enchanted words that have captured the imagination of children and grown-ups. But even today, 172 years later, school children make the annual candlelight procession to the grave of Dr. Moore in New York City and honor him.

And to any who wondered how Santa came to have the image of a jolly, rosy-cheeked fellow, we say it might never have happened were it not for Jan Duychinck, who was both the model and the inspiration for Clement Moore's Santa Claus.



## Martin Luther's first Christmas tree

On a clear winter night more than four hundred years ago,

Martin Luther was walking toward his home.

As his feet followed the familiar paths, his eyes gazed upon the radiant beauty of the heavens which were declaring the glory of God.

Looking through the branches of the evergreens, he saw the stars beyond that seemed to be sprinkled on the sky like silver jewels.

So enthralled was Luther that he wished he might somehow preserve the vision and share its splendor. If he could only take one of these trees into his home, how greatly his family would rejoice in its beauty.

So it was, legend contends, that Martin Luther took one small tree into his home on Christmas Eve. On its branches he placed lighted

candles so his family might know something of the beauty of stars shining through the branches of trees.

Whether his was really the first Christmas tree, no one can say. We do know that the custom of bringing trees into the home at Christmas time was soon well established in Europe.

In time, the Christmas tree came to North America, brought to the new world by Europeans.

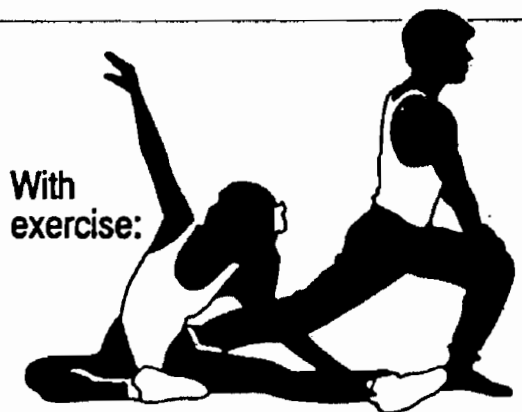
The Christmas tree remains as the most important holiday display in homes and buildings.

If we look beyond the tree, we can still see the twinkling stars with their silent testimony of faith.





## To your health



With  
exercise:

### You can control the ups and downs of dieting

last year. And the average weight of 25 to 30-year-olds has increased by 10 pounds since 1986.

Luckily for people who are overweight, the rules of weight loss have been distilled into a concise formula: With a combination of modified caloric intake and increased physical activity, almost everyone will lose pounds - and lose them permanently.

A two-year study by the Nutrition Research Clinic of Baylor College of Medicine in Houston is providing evidence that people stand the

best chance of long-term weight loss when they exercise.

The study charts three groups considered obese when the study began. One group tries to lose weight only by eating less. Another eats less and increases its level of physical activity. The third

makes no changes in diet, but increases physical activity.

The best results are attributed to exercise alone. Diet and exercise achieve better results immediately, but there is a tendency for this group to regain some of the weight.

Dr. Joe Coetzee, physician for the Cooper Institute for Aerobic Fitness in Dallas, says for a healthy person, a one-mile walk is a good start. In the beginning, frequency and duration of exercise are most important.

Covert Bailey, author of *Smart Exercise* (Houghton Mifflin, \$19.95) says the high rate of oxygen intake associated with physical exercise has many benefits, including lower blood pressure, better heat regulation, less body fat, denser bones, more efficient lungs and lower heart rate.

Traditional diets treat only symptoms, according to Bailey, while doing nothing to fix depressed, diet-weary metabolism.

## Put nicotine down for the count

Many people today feel that the health facts on smoking are recent news. While much of the research is new, people of wisdom knew smoking was dangerous right from the beginning. For example...

In 1941, more than 13 years after Heavyweight Champion boxer Gene Tunney bowed out of the ring, he issued a challenge to fight - and beat - Joe Louis.

"If Joe Louis will start smoking and promise to inhale a couple of packages of cigarettes every day for six months, I'll engage to lick him in 15 rounds!" Those were the words Tunney wrote in the Decem-

ber 1941 issue of *Reader's Digest*, words which seem strangely modern.

In fact, if you think that the fight against smoking and the recognition of its health hazards are relatively new struggles, think again.

Tunney and the medical establishment knew long before 1941 of the hazards of smoking and the addictive qualities of nicotine. Tunney reminded readers that nicotine is literally and figuratively "poison."

"No one has ever denied that nicotine is poison. Taken clear, it is as quick-acting and fatal as prussic

acid. A drop of it on a shaved rabbit causes immediate convulsions and death. The nicotine dissolved out of a few cigarettes and placed on the tongue of a grown man would kill him in 15 minutes. Luckily, the bulk of the nicotine in tobacco is volatilized in smoke; you do not get the poison straight. But if you smoke a pack a day, you inhale 400 milligrams of it a week. That much in a single dose would kill you as quick as a bullet."

More than 50 years after the original article was published, Tunney's ideas are still fighting words.



# Retiree Review

**Editor's note:** The Retiree Review from the October 20th luncheon was not printed in the November issue because it was not received until after the issue had gone to the printer. Exerpts from the October 20th luncheon are included here prior to information from the November luncheon.

**October 20th:** L.G. Kugler, Bill Hoff and George Clapp were given "Happy Birthday" wishes.

Tom Murphy, retired pursuer on the Mississippi Queen, was present and made a few comments.

Charlie Denzel was back with us. He had five by-passes on Sept. 20th. He is doing great. Still gets antsy doing nothing. Says his wife has to take him to the park quite often. Mike Cullen brought him, since he still isn't allowed to drive.

## November 17:

By the Retiree Correspondent

Again on the third Thursday 30 retirees convened at the Salad Bowl for our very pleasant luncheon.

Lee and Mary Briece were back with us after missing last month. Their excuse - a wonderful trip. They brought pictures which attested to the beauty they saw. Glad to have them back.

Mildred Miles, Margaret McFarland and Jim Butery were present after having been absent for a while.

Elmer Huizenga had a letter from Ruth Ziden reporting on Ed Knight. Ed and wife are living in a retirement center. I talked to Ed today. He is quite cheerful. He has emphysema and malignant tumors. His address is 800 Napa Valley Drive, Little Rock, Arkansas 72211, if you would like to send him a card. Or call at 501-228-7784.

Paul Trouth and Charlie Denzel were our Birthday boys this month. Happy Birthday!

Jim Baker, '74 retiree, was our senior retiree present.

Our Christmas luncheon was discussed. Barb and Bob Lutz volunteered to provide table decorations.

Our special guest was Maria Shafer, Park Ranger from Lake Shelbyville, who presented information about the 25th anniversary of the construction of Lake Shelbyville to be held on July 28, 29 & 30, 1995. They'd like to hear from any people who worked on the project. If any of you wish to contribute your memoirs, contact Maria Shafer at the lake management office, 217-774-3951, or write the management office, Rt. 4, Box 12813, Shelbyville, Illinois 62565. They will appreciate any input, including pictures and stories.

Our condolences to the family of Dorothy Williams (Mrs. Steve), who passed away on Sept. 29. We will miss Dorothy. She was a lovely lady.

We will be planning our Christmas luncheon at the November luncheon. If you wish to help with the decorations, come out and volunteer your help.

Our menu was discussed and we decided to have turkey, beef, fillet of sole, salad, au gratin potatoes, assorted desserts, coffee, tea or milk. Price is \$12 per person, tax and gratuities included.

Since we must notify the restaurant four days in advance the approximate number to expect, please call either Kate Stiles at 849-5388, Pete Puricelli at 638-6597 or Elmer Huizenga at 383-3845 as soon as possible.

We did not have a District representative present. We miss that since we are still very interested in the operation of the District. We'd like to extend a special invitation to the District for the Christmas luncheon.

Laurel Nelson, Paul Trouth and Mary Briece were the lucky ones by winning our Pot of Gold. Congratulations.

Don't forget if you were in any way connected with the construction of Lake Shelbyville, send any comments to Maria Shafer, Park Ranger at the Lake Shelbyville Management Office, Rt. 4, Box 128B, Shelbyville, Illinois 62565. Telephone - 217-774-3951.

Let's make our Christmas luncheon a "Biggie." See you on December 15 at the Salad Bowl about 11 a.m. Don't forget to notify us if you're going to be there. We want you to have food and a chair! See you then.

## Retirees...

We have another large group of our people who have retired or will

be retiring soon. Below is as complete a list as we have:  
Dan Flowers, ED

Sandor Dombi, ED  
Walter Fredely, ROS-S

(Continued on next page)



Virgil Sanders, CO-NM  
Howard Turner, ROS-S  
Don Mirick, CO-OS4  
Mel Stohl, ED  
Red Buchhold, CO  
Ron Lindsay, PM  
Dave Cusack, ED

Lee Dellenbaugh, ED  
Tom Gardner, CO-M  
Al Hoffmeister, ED  
Bob Rattini, ED  
Dave Spencer, ED  
Elbert Haskett, ED  
Jack Rhodes, IM  
Art Johnson, ED

Fred Bader, PM  
Joe Effertz, PM  
Kathy Hayes, PM  
Jack Stewart, HR  
Woodrow Sandlin, RE  
Ed Falkner, ED  
John Poullain, ED  
Gloria Aubuchon, RO-L

## Kent champion horseshoe pitcher

One of our retirees, retired lockmaster at Lock and Dam 24, Lewis Kent, is a world champion. For about 10 years Lewis has been pitching horseshoes and bringing home trophies from sanctioned horseshoe competitions.

In 1987 he finished sixth in class T of the world championships; first in 1990 in class O; and first in 1993 in class H.

In order to qualify for world competition, a person must compete in three sanctioned tourna-

ments each year. The average ringers percentage from the three determines who qualifies and in which class they will compete.

At the 1994 state tournament, Kent pitched 53.3 percent ringers. He has, for the most part, already qualified for the 1995 world championships which will be held in Georgia next year.

## Huber letter

**Editor's note:** The following is excerpts from a recent letter from retiree Carl Huber:

"I have been busy trying to get my auctioneer business going; might be next spring before I get all the concrete and building done.

"My wife, Ruth, and I are in the process of moving into the "big" town of Sorento, Illinois. We already have purchased a house and are now in the process of purchasing an auction building to hold monthly or bi-weekly consignment auctions.

"...I haven't forgotten any of you. The people of the St. Louis District are a group of very distinguished individuals; one family of a kind. And I am very proud that this was a part of my life."

## Family friendly sick-leave policy

President Bill Clinton has signed legislation allowing government employees to use sick leave to care for ill family members.

The Federal Employees Family Friendly Leave Act goes into effect December 22. Until then current rules apply: Employees can use sick leave only for their own illness.

The measure contains a broad definition of "family." Employees will be able to use sick leave to care for a spouse; parents; spouse's parents; children, including adopted children, and their spouses; broth-

ers and sisters and their spouses; or any individual related by blood or affinity whose close association with the employee is equivalent to a family relationship.

All employees will be able to use at least five of their 13 sick days per year for family care. They will be allowed to use an additional eight days, provided they retain at least 80 hours in their account.

Office of Personnel Management officials are working on the regulations, so details are not in place. They said they will evaluate the policy during a three-year pilot run and report to Congress.

## Cost of auto lease

Low monthly payments advertised for lease cars can be deceiving. *Nation's Business* advises customers to look at dealer offers four ways: 1. What do you owe up front? 2. What are monthly payments? 3. What will you owe at the end of the lease, including extra mileage costs? 4. What is the total cost? These questions help to compare one dealer's offer with another's.

## Seasonal quote

Christmas is the shining festival of the unselfish. It is the homecoming of the spirit... the glorification of all that is good.

Author Unknown

Wishing you a joyous holiday season

